

Press Intelligence, Inc.

WASHINGTON 1, D. C.

YOUNGSTOWN (O.)  
VINDICATORCirc. 92,402  
S. 131,282

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Coups in Iran  
Is Like Tale  
Of GraustarkPrincess Has Lead Role  
with on-Spot Yanks;  
Merriwell FinishBy Crosby S. Noyes  
(North American Newspaper Alliance)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3—What

What really happened in Iran? What course of events led to the blowup Aug. 19 which resulted in the overthrow of Premier Mohammed Mossadegh and the triumphal return of the Shah?

The Communists charge the entire episode was engineered by American agents. Our government has insisted that Mossadegh was the victim of an entirely spontaneous uprising.

There is, however, another story of the affair, one which ascribes a leading role in the historic drama to an almost unknown individual—a colorful and very competent princess named Ashraf. Some of the elements of this story, now making the rounds in diplomatic circles here, seem to bear out the Communist line that American agents had a hand in what transpired. They refute, however, the charge that the United States masterminded the revolt entirely on its own hook.

Princess Ashraf is the twin sister of Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, Shah of Iran. According to the people who know her, she is quite an operator. The old Shah is said to have remarked it was too bad that she, and not her brother, was born a woman. She is still rated as being twice the man the Shah is.

#### Foe of Premier

From the beginning of his rise to power, Iran's vaporish Premier Mossadegh found a natural enemy in the princess. As the old man tearfully tightened his hold on the levers of national authority, Ashraf fought him openly.

As soon as it was safe for him to do so, Mossadegh had her exiled. Ashraf took her family to Europe. Dividing her time between Switzerland, Rome and Paris, she con-

tinued drumming up support to overthrow Iran's dictatorial premier.

Meanwhile as Mossadegh moved into increasingly close contacts with the Communist Tudeh Party, a significant stir of activity was observed in Washington.

At least four Middle East experts left the capital for various destinations early last summer. By the beginning of August word had trickled back to Washington that all of them had shown up in Tehran.

#### Eisenhower Rejected Bid

On May 28, Mossadegh wrote to President Eisenhower asking for immediate financial help from the United States. It was blackmail in its simplest form. Mossadegh already had made it clear that a refusal would drive him closer into the arms of the Tudeh Party and force him to turn to Russia as a source of revenue.

President Eisenhower waited a month, then, with the backing of his top State Department advisers, he turned down Mossadegh. With the political future of the whole Middle East at stake, the premier was told, in effect, to go jump in the lake.

Soon after the incident, our ambassador at Tehran, Loy Henderson, packed up and left for a vacation in Switzerland. In view of the critical political situation in Iran, the trip aroused some comment. Allen Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, left Washington Aug. 10—also for a vacation in Switzerland. And, as a final coincidence, the Princess Ashraf, who had just made a quick trip to Tehran to see her brother, was in Switzerland, too.

#### In Steps Schwarzkopf

But whatever success the princess had in lining up her brother, another messenger is credited with the last-minute persuasion of the Shah. He is an American with unusual qualifications as an Iranian expert, Brig. Gen. N. Norman Schwarzkopf.

General Schwarzkopf's present connection with the U.S. government is exceedingly vague. He first came to the attention of the public in 1932 when, as head of the New Jersey police force, he led the investigation of the Lindbergh kidnapping case. He became known in Iran a decade later when, as an Army colonel, he was detailed at the request of the Iranian government to reorganize the national police force.

In the course of almost six years (he quit the job in 1948) General Schwarzkopf became one of the most important and powerful figures on the Iranian landscape.

#### Happened to Be There

This year, it happened that General Schwarzkopf's summer vacation trip took him to the Middle East. He rambled around through Lebanon, Syria and Pakistan, and showed up in Iran before the mid-

dle of August.

After Schwarzkopf's visit to Iran events moved swiftly. Certainly, also, the Communists and Mossadegh were waiting for the opening gun.

The switch was thrown Thursday, Aug. 13. The Shah issued two decrees. One fired Mossadegh—the other named General Zahedi to replace him. The head of the Imperial Guard, Col. Nematollah Nashiri, was sent off to Tehran to deliver the ukases.

#### Ran Into Strong Point

When the colonel, accompanied by a handful of guards, arrived at Mossadegh's home at midnight Saturday, they ran head on into a cordon of army tanks and jeeps. Colonel Nashiri's guards were disarmed and he was arrested. The same night, most of the Iranian army moved into town armed to the teeth. General Zahedi slipped out of sight and Premier Mossadegh issued a proclamation that the revolt had been crushed.

For a while it looked as if he were right. To be on the safe side, the Shah and his queen left hastily for Iraq—proceeding later to Rome.

Wednesday morning a curious thing happened. As the scene was described by a reporter for The New York Times: "A group of weightlifters, tumblers and wrestlers, armed with iron bars and knives, began marching toward the heart of the city shouting pro-Shah slogans."

There is no hint where this curious professional shock force was recruited or how its members happened to join in concerted activity just at that time. It was, however, enough to swing the precarious balance of crowd psychology to the Shah's favor.